

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 10, 2020

Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 1672

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on July 10, 2020, I have vetoed House Bill 1672, relative to absentee voting.

The State of New Hampshire has ensured that our upcoming elections will be secure and our voters safe in these trying times. We have made it clear that any eligible voter who wishes to vote absentee because of the pandemic may do so. My administration has worked with the Secretary of State and legislature to help make it easier for voters, town clerks and moderators and support Senate Bill 1266. Despite the current difficulties we are experiencing, we anticipate our upcoming elections will maintain the high standards that New Hampshire voters expect and deserve.

New Hampshire's voting system works very well and we consistently have some of the highest voter participation in the country. The proponents of House Bill 1672 seek to take advantage of a global pandemic to fundamentally and permanently weaken New Hampshire's electoral system. They have put forward a partisan wish list of unreasonable and unnecessary provisions, some of which have already been vetoed and sustained last year. New Hampshire takes pride in our traditions of strong civic engagement and fair, transparent, and secure elections. Our Democratic Secretary of State, who has served our state faithfully for over 40 years, opposes this radical, partisan piece of legislation and so do I.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 1672.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher T. Sununu

Governor